



World Health Organization

---

**The 10 leading causes of death by broad income group (2008)**

<b>Low-income countries</b>	<b>Deaths in millions</b>	<b>% of deaths</b>
Lower respiratory infections	1.05	11.3%
Diarrhoeal diseases	0.76	8.2%
HIV/AIDS	0.72	7.8%
Ischaemic heart disease	0.57	6.1%
Malaria	0.48	5.2%
Stroke and other cerebrovascular disease	0.45	4.9%
Tuberculosis	0.40	4.3%
Prematurity and low birth weight	0.30	3.2%
Birth asphyxia and birth trauma	0.27	2.9%
Neonatal infections	0.24	2.6%

<b>Middle-income countries</b>	<b>Deaths in millions</b>	<b>% of deaths</b>
Ischaemic heart disease	5.27	13.7%
Stroke and other cerebrovascular disease	4.91	12.8%
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	2.79	7.2%
Lower respiratory infections	2.07	5.4%
Diarrhoeal diseases	1.68	4.4%
HIV/AIDS	1.03	2.7%
Road traffic accidents	0.94	2.4%
Tuberculosis	0.93	2.4%
Diabetes mellitus	0.87	2.3%
Hypertensive heart disease	0.83	2.2%

<b>High-income countries</b>	<b>Deaths in millions</b>	<b>% of deaths</b>
Ischaemic heart disease	1.42	15.6%
Stroke and other cerebrovascular disease	0.79	8.7%
Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers	0.54	5.9%
Alzheimer and other dementias	0.37	4.1%
Lower respiratory infections	0.35	3.8%
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	0.32	3.5%
Colon and rectum cancers	0.30	3.3%
Diabetes mellitus	0.24	2.6%
Hypertensive heart disease	0.21	2.3%
Breast cancer	0.17	1.9%

<b>World</b>	<b>Deaths in millions</b>	<b>% of deaths</b>
Ischaemic heart disease	7.25	12.8%
Stroke and other cerebrovascular disease	6.15	10.8%
Lower respiratory infections	3.46	6.1%
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	3.28	5.8%
Diarrhoeal diseases	2.46	4.3%
HIV/AIDS	1.78	3.1%
Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers	1.39	2.4%
Tuberculosis	1.34	2.4%
Diabetes mellitus	1.26	2.2%
Road traffic accidents	1.21	2.1%